



# VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

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1964

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PLAN TO ATTEND THE

## 2017 GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND FARM MARKET EXPO

The 2017 EXPO will be held December 5-7 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. More than 75 education sessions and workshops will be presented over three days. The trade show will offer displays by more than 450 exhibitors. Again in 2017, the Michigan Greenhouse Growers EXPO will be held concurrently with the Great

Lakes EXPO (one registration fee covers both conferences). The EXPO's pre-conference Farm Market Bus Tour will be held on Monday, December 4.

The Michigan Vegetable Council and the Michigan State Horticultural Society have co-sponsored the EXPO since combining their conferences in 2001. Since that

time, the EXPO has become the largest combined show for fruit, vegetable and greenhouse growers and farm marketers in North America.

You will save on registration fees if you **pre-register by November 15**. You can register online, as well as by mail or fax. Registering under the vegetable or fruit/vegetable categories includes membership in the

Michigan Vegetable Council.

Go to GLEXPO.com for registration and program information. In cooperation with the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau, the EXPO has reserved Dash Shuttle Lot -Area #9 (250 Seward NW) for **free parking and free shuttle bus service** to and from DeVos Place Convention Center.

## ANNUAL MEETING *and* ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Michigan Vegetable Council's annual meeting and election of directors will be held during the EXPO on **Wednesday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m.** Two current directors (Matt Bouwkamp and Joe Pirrone) are term limited at the end of this year. The Council's nominating committee is responsible for contacting potential director candidates and submitting a list of nominees at the annual meeting. If you have an interest in being considered for nomination to the board, contact the chair of the nominating committee, Chris Falak (231-928-2898, [chris.falak@us.nestle.com](mailto:chris.falak@us.nestle.com)).

## 2017 MVC AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Vogel Produce, Inc.,** Holton, Michigan, is the 2017 recipient of the Michigan Vegetable Council's Master Farmer Award. They are being recognized for innovative farming practices and support of vegetable crop research. Glenn Vogel and his son, Scott, are partners in this farm business.

The Vogel's vegetable farming operation started in 1948 when Glenn's father,

Andy, bought some muck land and started growing vegetables. Carrots, both for processing and the fresh market, were the main crop. In the 1970's, the farm was one of the first farms in the state to start growing carrots and onions on mineral soils. All crops are now grown on mineral soils.

Andy Vogel was recognized by the Council in 1994 with the Master Farmer Award, but much has changed since Glenn bought the farm in 1996. Scott joined the operation after graduating from Grand Valley State University in 2004. The farm had to reinvent itself after 2008 when its main customer for carrots closed its packing operations in Michigan. The

farm is more diversified in its vegetable cropping now, growing over 200 acres of onions and about 80 acres of carrots for the fresh market and over 1,200 acres of vegetables for processing, including pickles, peas and butternut squash. Vogel Produce has a long history of cooperation with Michigan State University with on-farm research plots and onion variety trials.

**Dr. George Bird,** Professor Emeritus in Michigan State University's Department of Entomology, is being recognized as the Council's 2017 Master Farmer Associate Award recipient.

This award is presented to an individual who, while not directly involved in farming, has made significant contributions to the well-being of the vegetable industry in Michigan.

Dr. Bird has served on the faculty at MSU since 1973, where he teaches, does research on nematode diseases of vegetable, fruit and agronomic crops, and participates in grower Extension events. Much of his research and outreach has been done on-farm in close association with multiple generations of farm families. Many of George's graduate students have gone on to

become well-recognized nematologists. In addition, Dr. Bird served in Washington D.C. for two years (1991-93) as the first Director of the U.S. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (USDA/CSREES). In recent years, Dr. Bird has been involved with a group of farmers and researchers in their attempt to better understand the concept of soil health in regards to current and future crop productivity.

These awards will be presented on December 6 during the banquet program at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO.

[WWW.MICHIGANVEGETABLECOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.MICHIGANVEGETABLECOUNCIL.ORG)

# LAND-APPLIED BIOSOLIDS *and* FOOD SAFETY



Biosolid application practices in Michigan are overseen by the state's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Accepted practices are intended to protect the environment and the general public. The rules dictate that biosolids should not be applied to land with a high potential for public exposure. It has been largely overlooked that applying biosolids to land directly adjacent to fresh food crops

has the potential for public exposure.

Currently there are set back requirements for homes, schools, golf courses, businesses, wells, ditches and parks, but none for adjacent crops. Biosolids can be applied across a property line from fresh food crops ready for harvest.

The understanding of food safety practices and hazard prevention practices has increased considerably since the

1990's when the rules for the land application of biosolids were developed. To prevent potential human health hazards from the application of biosolids, the Council supports having MDEQ, in consultation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), review the rules for application of biosolids in close proximity to growing fruit and vegetable crops.

## SEARCH FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Council has started a search for a new Executive Director. Dave Smith will be retiring as Executive Director of the Council when his current contract ends on March 31, 2018. That will complete nearly 20 years of service as the Council's Executive Director. Ben Kudwa, who has served the Council on a part-time basis as Director of External Relations since 2014, will also retire effective March 31, 2018.

Dave said, "I have enjoyed my work on behalf of the Council and the vegetable growers it represents. I have had the pleasure over the years of working with many good people on our board, as well as working with many others involved with or connected to our industry. I think the Council's activities have been beneficial to the growers we represent. I have especially enjoyed working

with Ben Kudwa in recent years. We both feel the Council is at a good point for transitioning to a new Executive Director to lead its activities."

Information describing the Executive Director position and explaining how to apply is posted on the Council's website: [michiganvegetablecouncil.org](http://michiganvegetablecouncil.org). The deadline for applications is December 15, 2017.

## OUR ENDOWED RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND



The Council's endowed research and education fund – the Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) Fund – has grown to a balance of \$391,780 (including investment returns through June, 2017). Research grants of \$65,731 have been made from the fund. A brochure about the fund is included with this mailing. Our goal is to continue growing the fund. We encourage you to consider a contribution to the fund, which will support vegetable crop research and education now and in the future.

